

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 16, 20 through 26, 30 through 49, 53 through 59, and 63 through 78 are pending in the application. A final Office Action was mailed July 23, 2006. Applicant submitted an Amendment After Final pursuant to 37 C.F.R. Section 1.116. The Examiner, in an Advisory Action mailed October 30, 2007, did not enter the amendments in that paper, on the grounds that, in the view of the Examiner, those amendments raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search. Applicant by this paper submits those amended claims with a Request for Continued Examination.

In the Office Action mailed July 23, 2006, the Examiner:

- Objected to claims 1 through 16, 20 through 26, 30 through 33, and 67 through 72 because the Examiner found an inconsistency with the analogous method claims.
- Rejected claims 1 through 16, 20 through 26, 30 through 32, 34 through 49, 53 through 59, 63 through 65, 71, 72, 77, and 78 under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,364,829 to Fulghum in view of United States Patent No. 6,061,591 to Freitag.
- Rejected claims 67 through 70 and 73 through 76 under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,364,829 to Fulghum in view of United States Patent No. 6,061,591 to Freitag, in further view of United States Published Patent Application No. 2002/0049386 to Yang.
- Rejected claims 33 and 66 under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,364,829 to Fulghum in view of United States Patent No. 6,061,591 to Freitag, in further view of United States Published Patent Application No. 2002/0049375 to Strommer.

Applicant:

- Amends claims 1 through 5, 7 through 11, 14, 20, 23, 30, 34, 40 through 43, 53, and 67 through 70; and
- Cancels claims 16, 26, 49, 59 71, 72, 77, and 78.

Informality Rejection

Applicant amended claim 1 in pertinent part as: “means for simultaneously performing at least one additional second assessment of the target as a transparent background task to determine if the target is in a normal state or an abnormal state”. This amendment was made at the request of the Examiner, as requested in Paragraph 3, page 3, of the pending Office Action.

Section 103 Rejections

Claim 1 is amended to recite “means for changing a visual output mode based on said additional second assessment comprising means for indicating a suspect region on said white light image by at least one of highlighting said suspect region and delineating said suspect region.” Please note that Applicant incorporated two of the four “means” from original claim 8 into amended claim 1. (Similarly, two of the four steps of original claim 41 are now incorporated into amended claim 34.)

The art of record does not describe indicating a suspect region on said white light image by at least one of highlighting said suspect region and delineating said suspect region. The Examiner recognized that this limitation is not taught in the prior art, as the previous rejections of claims 8 and 41 were on other bases.

Summary

The prior art of record does not teach the limitations of the independent claims. The claims are therefore allowable over the prior art. Applicant accordingly respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims.

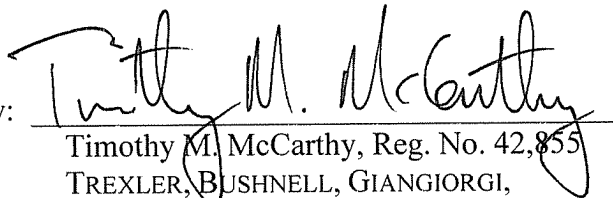
The United States Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized and requested to charge the fee associated with this Response to the deposit account of the undersigned firm, Account No. 20-1495.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (312) 704-1890.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November ²⁷~~15~~, 2007

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